

**THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART
CLEVELAND 6. OHIO**

TELEPHONE: GARFIELD 1-7340

FOR RELEASE December 6 or after

The only important pair of Sesson screens in the Western world are now in The Cleveland Museum of Art. They are in the special exhibition gallery where all acquisitions made by the Museum during 1959 are installed.

At one time these screens belonged to Baron Mitsui whose family were important figures in finance and industry in Japan. Works by Sesson are extremely rare. Not more than ten paintings are known to be associated with his name - some of which still remain questionable. Bold splashes of ink and forceful brushwork of a high decorative quality make these screens a most interesting comparison with the 13th century Chinese hanging scrolls also owned by the Museum.

In China since the 13th century The Tiger and The Dragon have been favorite subjects of Zen painters. At the beginning of the 15th century they were introduced to Japan and became extremely popular there. Originally The Tiger and Dragon were symbolic motifs in Chinese Taoism but soon became subjects for contemplation in Zen Buddhism. By the 16th century they had lost much of their religious meaning and often came to be regarded as a medium which would express the power of vision and dexterity.

Sesson, sometimes known as Sesson Shokei, was born in 1504, and was known to be active until 1589. No record of his life as a Zen monk has been found. Despite this he is always associated with places in the northeastern part of Japan. This gave his art the vigorous, bold brush-work and rampant spirit that set him apart from his fellow artists of the 16th century. Local color, together with his own daring personality and powerful imagination, made Sesson the outstanding individualist among the Ashikaga painters of the 'Water and Ink School.' He has however been better known as a follower of the great Shubun and Sesshu tradition, and the most distinguished pupil of Sesshu.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW exhibition will remain in the Special Exhibition gallery through December 20 and is open free to the public.

For further information and photographs write or telephone

Margaret R. Parkin
Garfield 1-7340